

THE ABC'S OF VIRAL HEPATITIS

	Hepatitis A (HAV)	Hepatitis B (HBV)	Hepatitis C (HCV)	Hepatitis D (HDV)	Hepatitis E (HEV)
What is it?	HAV is a virus that causes inflammation of the liver. It does not lead to chronic disease	HBV is a virus that causes inflammation of the liver. It can cause liver cell damage, leading to cirrhosis and cancer.	HCV is a virus that causes inflammation of the liver. It can cause liver cell damage, leading to cirrhosis and cancer.	HDV is a virus that causes inflammation of the liver only in those persons with HBV. It can cause cirrhosis and cancer.	HEV is a virus that causes inflammation of the liver. It is rare in the U.S. It can cause chronic disease.
Incubation Period	2 to 7 weeks. Average 4 weeks	6 to 23 weeks. Average 17 weeks	2 to 25 weeks. Average 7 to 9 wks.	2 to 8 weeks.	2 to 9 weeks. Average 40 days
How is it spread?	Transmitted by fecal/oral (anal/oral sex) route, close person to person contact or ingestion of contaminated food and water. Hand to mouth after contact with feces, such as changing diapers.	Contact with infected blood, seminal fluid, vaginal secretions, contaminated needles, including tattoo and body-piercing tools. Infected mother to newborn. Human bite. Sexual contact.	Contact with infected blood, contaminated IV needles, razors, and tattoo and body-piercing tools. Infected mother to newborn. Not easily spread through sex.	Contact with infected blood, contaminated needles. Sexual contact with HDV person.	Transmitted through fecal/oral route. Outbreaks associated with contaminated water supply in countries.
Symptoms	Children may have none. Adults usually have light stools, dark urine, fatigue, fever, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, and jaundice.	May have none. Some persons have mild flu like symptoms, dark urine, light stools, jaundice, fatigue, and fever.	Same as HBV	Same as HBV	Same as HBV
Treatment of Chronic Disease	Not applicable	Peginterferon, entacavir, and tenofovir are first-line treatment options	Peginterferon with ribavirin and serine protease adjuncts.	Peginterferon with varying success	Ribavirin for chronic hepatitis E but needs confirmation.
Vaccine	Two doses of vaccine to anyone over 1 year of age.	Three doses may be given to persons of any age.	None for HCV. Should receive Hepatitis A and B vaccines.	HBV vaccine prevents HDV infection.	None commercially available.
Who is at Risk?	Household or sexual contact with an infected person, or living in an area with HAV outbreak. Travelers to developing countries, persons engaging in anal/oral sex and injection drug users.	Infants born to infected mother, having sex with an infected person or multiple partners, injection drug users, emergency responders, healthcare workers, persons engaging in anal/oral sex and hemodialysis patients.	Blood transfusion recipients before 1992, healthcare workers, injection drug users, hemodialysis patients, infants born to infected mother, multiple sex partners.	Injection drug users, persons engaging in anal/oral sex and those having sex with an HDV infected patient.	Travelers to developing countries, especially pregnant women. Close contact with swine and ingestion or pork products, venison.
Prevention	Vaccinations or Immune globulin within 2 weeks of exposure. Washing hands with soap and water after going to the toilet. Use household bleach (10 parts water 1 part bleach) to clean surfaces contaminated with feces, such as changing tables. Safer sex.	Vaccination provides protection for 20 plus years. Clean up blood with household bleach and wear protective gloves. Do not share razors, toothbrushes, or needles. Safer sex Hepatitis B immune globulin for vaccine non-responders after exposure.	Clean up spilled blood with household bleach. Wear gloves when touching blood. Do not share razors, toothbrushes, or needles with anyone. Safer sex.	Hepatitis B vaccine to prevent HBV/HDV infection. Safer sex.	Avoid drinking or using potentially contaminated water, or fruits and vegetables.